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Reviews.

Essentials of Vegetable Pharmacognosy. A Treatise on Structural Botany. Designed especially for Pharmaceutical and Medical Students, Pharmacists and Physicians. By Henry H. Rusby, M. D. and Smith Ely Jelliffe, M. D.

Pharmacognosy is that branch of pharmacology which treats of unprepared drugs. It is therefore comprehensive, including several sciences, specially botany and chemistry. The work before us takes up vegetable pharmacognosy, in other words, it is a botanical treatise clearly and intelligently displaying the relations of morphology and organography to the study of vegetable drugs. It consists of two parts: the first, by Prof. Rusby, on the gross structure of plants; the second, by Prof. Jelliffe, on their minute structure. Both parts have been carried out in a manner worthy of the high reputation of their authors. Prof. Rusby's extended original studies as a systematic botanist, together with his experience as a teacher, have made him not only familiar with the needs of students, but thoroughly fitted to supply them. His work will be profitably consulted by all interested in botany. It is inspired by the truly scientific and natural method, following the laws of development and logically bringing out the relations and homology of parts, a philosophical process which leads the author, for instance, to define the flower as "a reduced branch modified for the production of seeds," and to find in the leaf "all the elements which characterize primary stem structure." It is hardly necessary to add that it embodies, so far as the limits permit, all the latest advances of science, as specially made clear under the headings of fertilization, pollination, dissemination of fruit, etc. It contains only 100 closely printed pages, but omits nothing of interest and may be truly regarded as a model of condensation; seldom can so much assimilable information be found in the same space. In spite of the direct and lucid style of the author, such condensation might prove bewildering to the beginner were it not for the richness and excellence of illustration, an admirable feature of the work, so that there is hardly a definition without its appropriate cut. It should be mentioned that most of the illustrations have been taken from nature.

In subsequent editions I would suggest the freer use of capitalized and italicized terms to strike the eye and memory of students.

The second part by Prof. Jelliffe is, likewise, an excellent example of adaptation of means to an end, this end being the study of plant tissues with a view to their practical determination in drugs. The first chapter is given to microscopy. After treating of cells and their contents, the author describes the tissues, from a point of view both anatomical and physiological, as formative, protective, nutritive and reproductive. The last chapter is devoted to micro-chemical relations. This part, although of only 50 pages, is made by judicious condensation, to cover a large amount of clearly expressed, easily apprehended matter, made still more intelligible by the same profusion of excellent cuts.

A full alphabetical index of the whole work is a desideratum. V. H.

Remarques sur la Nomenclature Bryologique. Par Auguste Le Jolis. Mem. Soc. Sci. Nat. et Math. de Cherbourg, 29: 229-328.

The author considers in detail the changes in the names of mosses originated by Lindberg, and since followed by Braithwaite and other bryologists. He believes that the majority of bryologists have been pained by the trouble and confusion which Lindberg has made in the meaning of the names consecrated by the best authors, by replacing names which had a universal usage, by those old and unknown ones, which are almost unintelligible except to the initiated. He says that "The protests which have been made against these changes have been attributed to the perturbation of previous habits and have not been discussed from the side of the principles involved." He discusses at some length the "Revisio generum plantarum" of Otto Kuntze, also the Laws of the Paris Congress of 1867, and then proceeds to a detailed explanation of the changes made by Lindberg in the nomenclature of the Mosses. He indulges in several sneers at his expense, implying that these changes were made for the sake of replacing the names of other authors by his own, and in many cases fails to give any conclusive reasons why the changes should not have been made; but he also shows, in several instances, that Lindberg made these changes on insufficient descriptions and poor characterizations. The follow-

ing is a list of the names to which he objects: *Sekra*, *Dorcadion*, *Astrophyllus*, *Sphaerocephalus*, *Webera*, *Lamprophyllum*, *Schistophyllum*, *Weissia*, *Georgia*, *Leersia*, *Mollia*, *Trichostomum*, *Stableria*, *Diaphanophyllum* and *Cyclodictyon*. He vents his spleen on Otto Kuntze for changing the application of *Hookeria* and reaches a climax of indignation by stating that 24 *Brodiaeas* transferred to *Hookeria* gave him that number of "nobis," 59 *Hookerias* transferred to *Cyclodictyon* added as many more, a small matter, however, after "306 OK.," which Dr. Kuntze seized by transferring *Selaginella* to *Lycopodioides*. "Le nobissime chronique degenerer ici en nobisite aigue."

He makes his argument much more impressive by omitting the parenthetical citations, and attributing all changes to a desire for personal notoriety, rather than adherence to a fixed principle. He then proceeds to discuss changes in specific names, including the following: *Bartramia Norvegica*, *Breutelia chrysocoma*, *Bryum cernuum*, *Buxbaumia viridis*, *Camptothecium trichoides*, *Campylopus subulatus*, *Cryphaea arborea*, *Dicranella secunda*, *D. vaginalis*, *Dicranum schisti*, *Didymodon denudatus*, *Entodon palatinus*, *Grimmia ovalis*, *G. campestris*, *Hylocomium proliferum* and *H. palatinum*, *Hypnum elodes*, *Isothecium viviparum*, *Lesquereuxia filamentosa*, *Mnium serpyllifolium*, *Neckera fontinaloides*, *Oligotrichum incurvum*, *Phascum acaulon*, *Pterogonium ornithopodioides*, *Rhacomitrium aquaticum*, *R. hypnoides*, *Salaenia caesia*, *Seligeria setacea*, *Splachnum pedunculatum*, *Swartzia montana*, *Tetraplodon bryoides*, *Tortula mutica*, *Barbula acuta* and *Weisia Americana*. Judging from the remarks on page 303, which he attributes to "Mrs. Elis J. Britton," it is evident that M. Le Jolis has not followed up my subsequent notes on the question of *Orthotrichum Americanum* Beauv. and *U. Americana* Mitt. If he will consult the BULLETIN (21: 66-68, 1894), he will learn that I have since seen the types of both species, and have come to agree with Lindberg in believing that the name *O. Americanum* Beauv. antedated *U. Hutchinsiae* Smith by eight years, and that they are unquestionably the same species.

He finally considers the names of genera which exist in Bryology, but which should not be used, because they have been employed in other families. *Coelidium*, Reicht., 1855, should be replaced by that of Vogel, 1839, for a genus of the Leguminosae.

Cryptangium C. M., 1843, should fall on account of a homonym of Schrader's, used in the Cyperaceae, in 1842. *Cryptocarpus* C. M. is replaced by Austin's name for a genus of Hepatics. *Decodon* (C. M.) Broth. is antedated by a synonym, *Rhachithecium* Broth. and by a homonym of Gmelin, used for a genus of Lythraceae in 1791. *Lasia* P. B., 1805, is antedated by *Lasia* Lour., 1790, in the Aroideae, and should be replaced by *Forstromia*, Lindb., 1862. including *F. Ohioensis* (Sull.) Lindb. (*Leptodon trichomitrium* Mohr.) *Mniopsis* Mitt., 1860, is attended by two homonyms: one of Dumortier, in the Hepaticae; the other of Martius in the Podostemaceae.

Three genera of Phanerogams are displaced by homonyms in mosses. They are *Hedwigia* Swartz, 1788, Burseraceae, by *Hedwigia* Ehrh., 1781. *Sporledera* Bernh., 1842, Pedaliaceae, by *Sporledera*, Hampe, 1827. *Swartzia* Schreb., 1791, Leguminosae, by *Swartzia* Ehrh., 1787. A table of homonyms in Bryophyta and Spermatophyta is given, and a long list of works he has consulted. There is also a complete index. In many cases the original citations are quoted, which renders this criticism of particular value to those who cannot verify the original descriptions.

ELIZABETH G. BRITTON

Proceedings of the Club.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 26, 1896.

Vice-President Allen in the chair and 29 persons present.

Mr. C. D. Lippencott and Miss Amy Schüssler were elected active members.

The announced paper of the evening by Prof. Byron D. Halsted, "Economic Field Botany," was illustrated by numerous interesting lantern-slides.

A communication was read from Mr. Chas. H. Winston, of Richmond College, submitting a specimen of *Ligusticum Canadense*.

Dr. Britton made some remarks upon the separation of the Liliaceae, as usually understood, into four distinct families.